

17124

February 18, 2002

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Emergency Enforcement & Support Section, SE-5J  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Attn: Carol Ropski

Re: Request for Information to Assist in the Downers Grove  
Groundwater Site Investigation

Dear Ms. Ropski:

Per my phone conversation Feb. 12, 2002 with legal representative, Thomas Krueger, I am providing additional background information on the property at 5103 Belmont Rd., Downers Grove, prior to operating as Grove Automotive.

Approximately 1960, the land was purchased and the 26'x 53' cement block building was built by my father, Carl Blum. This was to establish a business known as Carl Blum Carbonic Gas. Co. The product CO<sup>2</sup> (carbon dioxide) a non-hazardous/non-flammable gas, was stored in gas form, in an above ground tank with capacity of approximately 2000 lbs. This storage tank was provided by the Cardox CO<sup>2</sup> Corp. and was located outside the building on a concrete patio slab approximately 12'x15'. Lines and hoses ran from the storage tank through the back wall of the building and connected to a compressor filling machine. Floor scales allowed us to fill steel CO<sup>2</sup> cylinders of 20 lb. and 50 lb. capacity plus fire extinguishers.

The scales allowed us to meter the correct pound capacity into each cylinder or fire extinguisher. The gas cylinders were then distributed to taverns, restaurants, soda fountains, and when connected to a carbonator unit, provided pressure to dispense draft beer and carbonated soda.

I would like to note that at no time during the operation of the carbonic gas business did we ever have any discharge or waste, which is non-existent with CO<sup>2</sup>, into the air or ground. This was a very clean product to handle and distribute.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JAN 30 2002

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

Downers Grove Groundwater Site

PROMPT REPLY NECESSARY

CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Grove Automotive  
5103 Belmont Road  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Re: Request for Information Pursuant to Section 104 of CERCLA  
for the Downers Grove Groundwater Site in Downers Grove,  
DuPage County, Illinois

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter seeks your cooperation in providing information and documents relating to the contamination of the the Downers Grove Groundwater Site in Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois ("Site"). A Superfund site is a site contaminated with high levels of hazardous substances that may present a threat to human health or the environment.

We encourage you to give this matter your immediate attention and request that you provide a complete and truthful response to this Information Request and attached questions (Attachment B) within twenty-one (21) days of your receipt of this letter.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") is investigating the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the Site. U.S. EPA is seeking to obtain information concerning the generation, storage, treatment, transportation, and methods used to dispose of such substances that have been, or threaten to be, released from the Site. U.S. EPA will study the effects of these substances on the environment and public health. In addition, U.S. EPA will identify activities, materials, and parties that contributed to contamination at the Site. U.S. EPA believes that you might have information which may assist the Agency in its investigation of the Site.

The U.S. EPA is currently investigating the source of a contaminated groundwater plume in Downers Grove, Illinois. Water

samples taken from several private wells have tested above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 5 parts per billion for trichloroethylene (TCE) & tetrachloroethylene (PCE). The source or sources of the plume are believed to originate in the Ellsworth Industrial Park which is bounded by the BNSF railroad tracks (approximately 5000 south) to the north, Belmont Road (2200 west) on the east, Maple Avenue (approximately 2900 west) on the west and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street to the south.

#### Description of Legal Authority

The federal "Superfund" law (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §9601, et seq., commonly referred to as "CERCLA" and "Superfund") gives U.S. EPA the authority to, among other things: (1) assess contaminated sites, (2) determine the threats to human health and the environment posed by each site, and (3) clean up those sites in the order of the relative threats posed by each.

#### Information Request

Under Section 104(e)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9604(e)(2), U.S. EPA has broad information gathering authority which allows U.S. EPA to require persons to furnish information or documents relating to:

(A) The identification, nature, and quantity of materials which have been or are generated, treated, stored, or disposed of at a vessel or facility or transported to a vessel or facility.

(B) The nature or extent of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant at or from a vessel or facility.

(C) Information relating to the ability of a person to pay for or to perform a cleanup.

While U.S. EPA seeks your cooperation in this investigation, compliance with the Information Request is required by law. Please note that false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations may subject you to civil or criminal penalties under federal law.

Some of the information U.S. EPA is requesting may be considered by you to be confidential. Please be aware that you may not withhold the information upon that basis. If you wish U.S. EPA

to treat the information confidentially, you must advise U.S. EPA of that fact by following the procedures outlined in Attachment A, including the requirement for supporting your claim for confidentiality.

If you have information about other parties who may have information which may assist the Agency in its investigation of the Site or may be responsible for the contamination at the Site, that information should be submitted within the time frame noted above.

This Information Request is not subject to the approval requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. §3501 et seq.

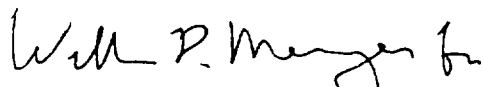
Instructions on how to respond to the questions in Attachment B to this document are described in Attachment A. Your response to this Information Request should be mailed to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Carol Ropski  
Emergency Enforcement & Support Section, SE-5J  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

If you have additional questions about the history of the Site, the nature of the environmental conditions at the Site, or the status of cleanup activities, please contact Steven Faryan at (312) 353-9351. However, if you have specific questions about the Information Request, please contact Carol Ropski at (312) 252-7647. Legal questions should be addressed to Thomas Krueger at (312) 886-0562.

We appreciate and look forward to your prompt response to this Information Request.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Karl, Chief  
Emergency Response Branch

Enclosures

cc: Kendra Pohn, Illinois Attorney General Office  
Tom Crause, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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# CARL BLUM

DISTRIBUTOR

CARBON DIOXIDE

CO<sup>2</sup>

5103 BELMONT ROAD

DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.

PHONE Woodland 8-1682

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

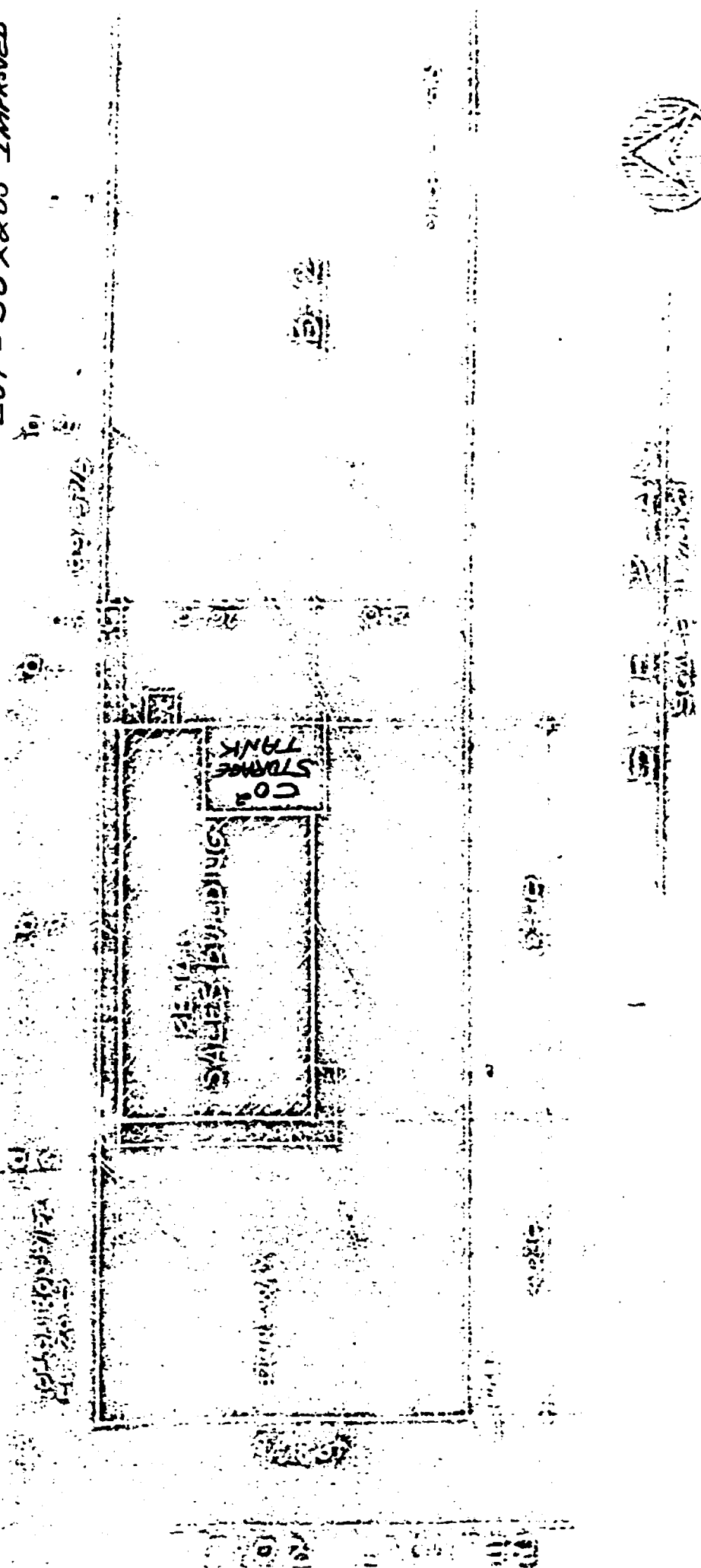
SOLD TO \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

20# Cyl. No.			
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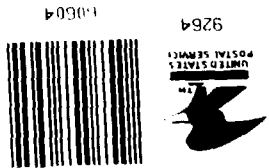
RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

SITE PLAN OLD + HARD T. ROAD  
BUILDING = 26' X 53'  
LOT = 50' X 200' IMPROVED



SEAL AND SIGNATURE

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
PHILADELPHIA  
FEB 19 1970  
\$4.11  
0004481



RECEIVED  
FEB 25 REC'D  
EMERGENCY SUPPORT  
SECTION

RECEIVED  
FEB 25 REC'D

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CAROL P. PISKI  
EMERGENCY ENFORCEMENT + SUPPORT SECTION SE-5  
17 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-3590